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The purpose of the talc is to reduce the fire and explosive hazard. The friction and impact tests on the cyanide-chlorate talc mixture carried on by the Bureau of Mines for the Public Health Service showed that the fire and explosive hazard of the mixture was very small, except under extreme conditions not met with in actual usage.

The cyanogen chloride and hydrochloric acid gas mixture given above fulfills the following requirements:

(1) Toxicity: High toxicity with rodents, bats, roaches, bedbugs. (The amount required for lice requires further experimentation.)

(2) Detection properties: Intense lacrimation when lethal dose used. In 1/8 lethal dose (having no harmful effect on rats after exposure of one hour) lacrimation was still extreme.

(3) No effect on foods, tobacco, fabrics, leather, and no corrosive action on metals (with the possible exception of nickel).

(4) Efficient penetration qualities.

(5) Nonpersistence: Gas is not more persistent with hydrocyanic acid gas, probably less so.

(6) Reasonably low cost per 1,000 cubic feet. Cyanogen chloride mixture, $0.088; hydrochloric acid gas, $0.081.

(7) Fire and explosive hazards at minimum.

INVESTIGATION OF VENTILATION OF SHIPS.

At the request of the Surgeon General, the United States Shipping Board detailed one of its ships to the Public Health Service for the study of ventilation.

This part of the investigation has not as yet been completed, but the work has been along the following general lines:

(1) A study of the natural air currents in the holds of the ship under varying conditions of temperature, humidity, and wind velocity.

(2) A study of the air currents set up by artificial means of ventilation, such as blowers and fans, and the arrangement of the ducts of the blowers and the location of the fans to give the best results.

(3) A comparative study of natural ventilation and the various means of artificial ventilation in dispersing nontoxic heavy gases and cyanogen chloride.

(4) Practical application of cyanogen chloride in fumigation of holds and quarters on ship board.

As soon as the ventilation studies are finished, it is expected to present both the chemical and ventilation studies as a service publication.

FUMIGATION OF CARGOES OF CRATED VEGETABLES.

The question has recently arisen as to whether cargoes of crated onions, garlic, and potatoes landed at San Juan, P. R., provide means for the conveyance of rats, and therefore whether or not such cargoes should be fumigated. The following extract from a report made by the chief quarantine officer of San Juan is interesting in this connection:

> On August 31, 1922, the Spanish steamship *Antonio Lopez* arrived at San Juan from ports in Spain and the Canary Islands. The vessel proceeded to discharge into open lighters the following cargo: 1,672 crates of garlic from Barcelona, 428 crates of garlic from Valencia, and 600 crates of potatoes from the Canary Islands. The foregoing cargo filled 11 lighters, which contained no rats prior to taking on the cargo. All of these loaded lighters were fumigated by means of cyanide gas. As usual, the portable cyanide gas generator was employed. The time of exposure was two hours. After the completion of the fumigation, the cargo was discharged, under the supervision of an employee of the United States Public Health Service, and four dead rats were found in the lighters. All four rats were full grown *Mus norvegicus*. They were sent immediately to the laboratory for examination, which was reported to be negative for plague infection.

DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 21, 1922.

Summary of information received by telegraph from industrial insurance companies for week ended October 21, 1922, and corresponding week, 1921. (From the Weekly Health Index, October 24, 1922, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)

	Week ended Oct. 21, 1922.	Corresponding week, 1921.
Policies in force	50, 908, 562	47, 955, 519
Number of death claims	8, 944	8, 359
Death claims per 1,000 policies in force, annual rate	9. 2	9. 1

Deaths from all causes in certain large cities of the United States during the week ended October 21, 1922, infant mortality, annual death rate, and comparison with corresponding week of 1921. (From the Weekly Health Index, October 24, 1922, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)

City.	Estimated population July 1, 1922.	Week ended Oct. 21, 1922.		Annual death rate per 1,000, corresponding week 1921.	Deaths under 1 year.		Infant mortality rate, week ended Oct. 21, 1922.[2]
		Total deaths.	Death rate.[1]		Week ended Oct. 21, 1922.	Corresponding week 1921.	
Total	27, 479, 466	6, 050	11. 5	11. 6	891	809	....
Albany, N. Y	116, 223	32	14. 4	14. 5	5	5	112
Atlanta, Ga	220, 047	61	14. 5	15. 3	8	7	....
Baltimore, Md	762, 222	193	13. 2	14. 6	30	35	84
Birmingham, Ala	191, 017	44	12. 0	14. 3	4	12	....
Boston, Mass	764, 017	204	13. 9	11. 9	38	21	102
Bridgeport, Conn	[3] 143, 555	29	10. 5	7. 3	8	4	100
Buffalo, N. Y	528, 163	112	11. 1	10. 5	16	17	63
Cambridge, Mass	110, 944	17	8. 0	11. 3	3	1	55
Camden, N. J	121, 915	22	9. 4	10. 5	4	5	61
Chicago, Ill	2, 833, 288	528	9. 7	10. 8	85	86	....
Cincinnati, Ohio	404, 865	119	15. 3	13. 2	9	10	60
Cleveland, Ohio	854, 565	161	9. 8	10. 0	25	28	64
Columbus, Ohio	253, 455	52	10. 7	15. 5	6	11	63
Dallas, Tex	171, 974	45	13. 6	13. 9	4	7	....
Dayton, Ohio	161, 824	40	12. 9	12. 9	4	4	68
Denver, Colo	267, 591	77	15. 0	9. 7	7	4	....
Detroit, Mich	[3] 993, 678	212	11. 1	9. 3	48	32	92